



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Columbia/Boone

VOLUME 76, No. 12

DECEMBER, 2011

Founding Anniversary Lunch

Our League was established in December, 1919 (several months before the national LWV was established with its first convention in Chicago, 1920). We celebrate this anniversary each year with a luncheon and the awarding of our Outstanding Citizen Award. This year, the luncheon is on **Saturday, December 10, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at Jack's Gourmet Restaurant.**



The cost will be \$14.00 per person. (The served plate menu will include tarragon chicken breast, angel hair pasta, julienne carrots and zucchini, tossed salad with house dressing, rolls and butter, iced tea and brownies for dessert. Vegetarians will be accommodated.)

Although payment can be made at the luncheon, **reservations must be made by Friday, December 2** with Liz Schmidt, Treasurer, via telephone (445-0655) or email lizschmidt@centurytel.net).

Come join us as we celebrate our beginnings, our present and our future as well as recognizing League member Lucille Salerno as the **2011 Outstanding Citizen of the Year.**

League Member to be Honored



The Board selected Lucille Salerno to receive its Outstanding Citizen of the Year award from among a very talented and deserving set of nominations. Those who nominated Lucille started out by saying "the many lives Lucille has touched in positive ways in her various roles including: Director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Organizer of the J. W. (Blind Boone) Rag-time Festival, Promoter of the Blind Boone House restoration and President and active member (now president Emerita) of the Blind Boone Heritage Foundation.

Lucille moved to Columbia in 1974, which was good luck for Columbia. Lucille's leadership, her unlimited enthusiasm and her dedicated hard work have made all of the above projects major factors in the cultural, historical, and educational life of the citizens of Columbia. Without her these entities likely would not be here today and certainly not in such a vibrant form."

Come to the luncheon on December 10 and help honor Lucille for her many contributions.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

December

- **Energy Matters Com., Fri., Dec. 9, 10 am, Library Conf. Rm. A**
- **Founders Lunch, Sat., Dec. 10, Jack's, 11:30 a.m.**
- **Civil Liberties Com., Mtg., - Cancelled**
- **Board Mtg., 6:30 pm, Mon., Dec. 12, Boone Electric Coop.**

January

- **Board Mtg., 6:30 pm, Mon., Jan. 9, Boone Electric Coop.**
- **Civil Liberties Com., Mtg., Thurs., Jan 12, 1:15 pm**
- **Energy Matters Com., Tues., Jan 17, 10 am, Library Conf. Rm. A**
- **Chili Potluck & LWVUS Program Review, Thurs., Jan 19, 6 pm, Boone Electric Coop**
- **LWVMO Board Mtg., Sat., Jan 21, Jack's**

Fact Checking

Want to check the accuracy of allegations or emails? Go to ...

**www.politifact.com or
www.factcheck.org
www.snopes.com**

Whose Voices?



For several months now, so-called issue ads have been appearing in increasing numbers on network television (and, I suspect, on a number of cable networks as well). How many of us just “tune out” those that present a side with which we disagree? I would guess that most of us would fall into that camp.

If the message conveyed is simply just a difference in philosophy, that may be OK. What we have learned over the past decade or more, however, is that some of those advertisements are filled with selective information, distortions and even out-right lies. Is it OK to just ignore those messages? I would suggest that it is not.

Propaganda, according to my dictionary, is defined as the “systematic, widespread dissemination or promotion of particular ideas....to further one’s own cause or to damage an opposing one. ...now often used disparagingly to connote deception or distortion.” What we are too often watching can realistically be called propaganda and fails to contribute to the honest and open exchange of ideas so necessary to maintaining the success of our form of government. Is it all too easy, however, to feel “that’s just the way it is” or “what can one person do?” Edmund Burke said, “Nobody makes a greater mistake than he who does nothing because he could do only a little.”

What can you do? Some suggestions....call TribTalk, write a letter to the editor, share with your friends more accurate information on the topics. What suggestions do you have?

Linda Kaiser
President



League members attending the recent LWVMO conference in Sedalia.

Did You Know...?

Health and Human Services have provided grants to a number of states (including Missouri) for the establishment of state health exchanges as part of the Affordable Health Care Act. The status of health insurance exchanges in the fifty states are as follows:

- 13 states have created exchanges (California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Washington and West Virginia)
- 4 states failed to pass enabling legislation (Alaska, New Hampshire, New Mexico and Texas)
- 6 states have no legislative activity (Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota and Tennessee)
- 4 states have legislation pending (Michigan, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania)
- 4 states plan to establish exchanges (Illinois, Indiana, North Dakota and Virginia)
- 19 states are studying options (the remaining states, including Missouri)

See www.statehealthfacts.org, a service of the Kaiser Family Foundation)

Affordable Care & Patient Protection Act: An Update

There are twenty-one components of the Affordable Care Act that are to become active in 2011. Some of these are outlined below. For additional information, go to the Kaiser Family Foundation (www.kff.org).

Minimum Medical Loss Ratio for Insurers: Requires health plans to report the proportion of premium dollars spent on clinical services, quality, and other costs and provide rebates to consumers if the share of the premium spent on clinical services and quality is less than 85% for plans in the large group market and 80% for plans in the individual and small group markets. (Requirement to provide rebates begins for coverage purchased in 2011, with the rebates issued to enrollees the year following (e.g., 2011 rebates will be provided in 2012).

Closing the Medicare Drug Coverage Gap: Requires pharmaceutical manufacturers to provide a 50% discount on brand-name prescriptions filled in the Medicare Part D coverage gap beginning in 2011 and begins phasing-in federal subsidies for generic prescriptions filled in the Medicare Part D coverage gap. (On June 28, 2011, CMS announced that nearly 500,000 people had received a discount on their brand-name prescription drugs, with an average savings of \$545 per beneficiary. As of August 4, 2011, 900,000 Medicare beneficiaries who hit the prescription drug doughnut hole received a 50 percent discount on their prescription drugs.)

Medicare Payments for Primary Care: Provides a 10% Medicare bonus payment for primary care services; also, provides a 10% Medicare bonus payment to general surgeons practicing in health professional shortage areas.

Medicare Prevention Benefits: Eliminates cost-sharing for Medicare-covered preventive services that are recommended (rated A or B) by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and waives the Medicare deductible for colorectal cancer screening tests; authorizes Medicare coverage for a personalized prevention plan, including a comprehensive health risk assessment. (See Medicare Consumer Guide to Preventative Services.)

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation: Creates the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to test new payment and delivery system models that reduce costs while maintaining or improving quality.

Medicare Premiums for Higher-Income Beneficiaries: Freezes the income threshold for income-related Medicare Part B premiums for 2011 through 2019 at 2010 levels resulting in more people paying income-related premiums, and reduces the Medicare Part D premium subsidy for those with incomes above \$85,000/individual and \$170,000/couple.

Medicare Advantage Payment Changes: Restructures payments to private Medicare Advantage plans by phasing-in payments set at increasingly smaller percentages of Medicare fee-for-service rates; freezes 2011 payments at 2010 levels; and prohibits Medicare Advantage plans from imposing higher cost-sharing requirements for some Medicare covered benefits than is required under the traditional fee-for-service program.

Funding for Health Insurance Exchanges: Provides grants to states to begin planning for the establishment of American Health Benefit Exchanges and Small Business Health Options Program Exchanges, which facilitate the purchase of insurance by individuals and small employers. (Which states have received grants to establish their health insurance exchanges? Browse exchange data on Statehealthfacts.org.)

Dues: Send to Liz Schmidt, 1700 Forum Blvd, #3101, 65203. We appreciate gifts to our regular operating fund, which may be over and above your dues. If you wish to make a tax deductible gift to the LWV Education Fund, please make a separate check, payable to the LWVMO Education Fund.

National Lobby Efforts



Local members sometimes ask what is happening nationally with the League. Following is a list of actions the LWVUS officers, board and lobby corps have taken in recent weeks. To learn more about these efforts, go to www.lwv.org.

- Proposed Balanced Budget Constitutional Amendment: The League of Women Voters joined with 277 other organizations in a letter to members of the House of Representatives and Senate opposing passage of a so-called Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution. The League has long opposed the balanced budget amendment as a danger to the economy and the balance of powers between the three branches of government.
- Testifying before House Judiciary Committee Forum on Voting Laws Changes.
- Proposed Termination of EAC: The League sent a letter to Senators urging them to oppose the termination of the Election Assistance Commission, the only federal agency that devotes its full resources to improving American elections.
- The FEC: In a letter and press conference, the League and coalition partners called for changes in the dysfunctional Federal Election Commission.
- Legislation that Would Block Pollution Controls: The League and coalition partners sent a letter to the Senate urging them to oppose S. 1786, which would block the EPA's ability to clean-up life-threatening toxic air pollution.
- Deficit Committee: The League sent a letter to the Chairs and Ranking Members of all House and Senate Standing Committees urging them to post their submissions to the Deficit Committee online as soon as possible, for public review in order to fully embrace transparency in the Super-Committee's process.
- Cross-State Air Pollution Rule: The League and coalition partners sent a letter to Senators urging them to oppose the Congressional Review Act resolution sponsored by Senator Rand Paul which would void the life-saving Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR)

The current League priorities are....

Clean Air Defense
 Health Care Defense
 Money In Elections
 Voter Registration and Election Administration
 Fair Judiciary
 Promoting Global Democracy

Thanks to the following organizations and individuals who have made donations to the League and its Education Fund recently:

EnergyLink
 Nemow

Sierra Club
 Hank Waters



Voting Rights and Students

Voters may have an opportunity to vote next November on whether they want to amend the Missouri Constitution in order to allow the Legislature to enact legislation requiring voters to present a government issued photo ID at the polls in order to vote. The Legislature has twice passed such legislation - the first time it was declared unconstitutional by the Missouri Supreme Court and the second time it was vetoed by Governor Nixon. Compounding this already complicated scenario, there has been a legal challenge to this ballot proposal (the constitutional amendment) on the basis that the ballot language misleads voters and, if passed, will restrict the voting rights of Missourians.



If the amendment is approved by the voters and if the Legislature enacts once again a photo ID requirement, several groups of voters will be at risk of disenfranchisement: the young and the elderly, the poor, the disabled, minorities, and students.

As things now stand, students just like all other voters have a whole range of documents that they can show in order to identify themselves at the polls:

- An ID issued by the state of Missouri, an agency of the state, or a local election authority of the state
- An ID issued by the US government or agency
- An ID issued by an institution of higher education, including a university, college, vocational or technical school located within Missouri
- A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that contains your name and address
- A driver's license or non-driver's license or state ID card issued by another state

With the possible enactment of a photo ID law, students will not be able to use their driver's licenses from another state nor their student ID for identification at the polls. Nor could they use any of the other now acceptable forms of identification listed above. Students newly arrived at the University of Missouri, particularly if they were from another state, would have a much harder time qualifying to vote in Missouri. They could apply for a Missouri Driver's license or non-driver's license, but this would have to be done long before election day and requires presenting some proof of citizenship such as a certified birth certificate or a passport, neither of which are likely to be easily accessible documents and both of which can be costly. Election officials have estimated that upwards of 1,500 students could be disenfranchised.

We have to wonder how many would be willing to make the effort to surmount these barriers to voting. Full voting participation by all eligible voters is fundamental to a vital democracy and has always been a central League position.

Aline Kultgen, Co-Chair
Civil Liberties Committee

Condolences to the families of long-time League members who have died recently:

Royda Crose. (Memorial services will be held on Saturday, December 10, at 4:00 p.m. at the Unity Center, 1600 West Broadway)

Betty Cook Rottmann (Memorial services will be held on Saturday, December 10, at 2:00 p.m. at the Unitarian-Universalist Church)

Immigration Myths: Corrected Sources

Editor's Note: Errors in the citations as a result of the scanning process occurred in the articles appearing in October and November. Below are the correct source listings for each section for the entire article.

Immigrants Don't Pay Taxes:

Source: http://www.immigrationforum.org/about/articles/tax_study.html



Immigrants Come Here to Take Welfare:

Source: "Questioning Immigration Policy - Can We Afford to Open Our Arms?", Friends Committee on National Legislation Document #G-606-DOM, January 25, 1996. <http://www.fas.org/pub/gen/fcnl/immigra.html>

Immigrants Send All Their Money Back to Their Home Countries:

Source: <http://www.cato.org/research/articles/griswold-020218.html>

Immigrants Take Jobs and Opportunity Away from Americans:

Source: Richard Vedder, Lowell Gateway, and Stephen Moore, Immigration and Unemployment: New Evidence, Alexis de Tocqueville Institution, Arlington, VA (Mar. 1994), p. 13.

Immigrants Are a Drain on the US Economy:

Source: Andrew Sum, Mykhaylo Trubskyy, Ishwar Khatiwada, et al, Immigrant Workers in the New England Labor Market: Implications for Workforce Development Policy, Center for Labor Market Studies, Northeastern University, Boston. Prepared for the New England Regional Office, the Employment and Training Administration, and the U.S. Department of Labor, Boston, Massachusetts, October 2002. <http://www.nupr.neu.edu/1102/immigration.PDF#search='center%20for%20labor%20market%20studies%20at%20Northeastern%20University%20studies'>

Most Immigrants Cross the Border Illegally:

Source: Department of Homeland Security. <http://uscis.gov/graphics/shared/statistics/index.html>

Immigrants don't want to learn English or become Americans:

Source: American Immigration Lawyers Association, "Myths & Facts in the immigration Debate", 8/14/03. <http://www.aila.org/contentViewer.aspx?bc=17,142#section4>

Source: Simon Romero and Janet Elder, "Hispanics in the US Report Optimism" New York Times, (Aug. 6, 2003).

Today's immigrants are different than those of 100 years ago:

Source: Census Data: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/c2kprofOO-us.pdf>; <http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/censr-4.pdf>

Weak U.S. Border enforcement has led to high undocumented immigration:

Source: Immigration and Naturalization website: http://www.ncjrs.org/ondcppubs/publications/enforce/border/ins_3.html

The war on terrorism can be won through immigration restrictions:

Source: Associated Press/Dow Jones Newswires, "US Senate Subcommittee Hears Immigration Testimony", Oct. 17, 2001.

Source: Cato Institute: "Don't Blame Immigrants for Terrorism", Daniel Griswold, Assoc. Director of Cato Institute's Center for Trade Policy Studies (see: <http://www.cato.org/dailys/10-23-01.html>)

Officers

President: Linda Kaiser (474-1407)
1st Vice President:
2nd Vice President: Carol Schreiber (657-1467)
Secretary: Joni O'Connor (234-1012)
Treasurer: Liz Schmidt (445-0655)

Board Members & Committee Chairs

Budget: Shirley Troth (443-7033)
CAT TV: Carol Schreiber (657-1467)
Civil Liberties: Linda Kaiser & Aline Kultgen (449-2149)
Communications: Maydell Senn (445-7844)
Discussion Groups/Unit Meetings: Midge Pinkerton (445-2052)
Education: Holly Burgess (449-0625) & Zona Burk (234-1083)
Energy Matters: Win Colwill (445-4663) & Dick Parker (below)
Historian: Marilyn McLeod (445-3500)
Hospitality: Pam Springsteel (445-0642)
Land Use/Sunshine Coalition: Jo Sapp (443-8964)
Membership: Linda Lenau Brown (447-3939) & Liz Schmidt
Mental Health: Lael Von Holt (443-7747)
Nominating: Sarah Wolcott (449-4407)
Other: Joan Eisenstark (449-5790) & Ava Fajen (424-4254)
Peace: Dick Parker (256-4397)
Voter Editors: Joni O'Connor & Linda Kaiser
Voter Service: Carol Schreiber
Web & Social Media: Rachel Brekhus (875-4295)

Meetings

Board: 2nd Monday, 6:30 pm, Boone Electric Coop
Civil Liberties: 2nd Thurs., 1:15 pm*
Education: Varies
Energy Matters: 3rd Tuesday, 1 pm*
Fundraising: Varies
Peace: 2nd Fri., 9 am*
Voter Service: Varies*
 *Meetings at Library

Membership

We are now collecting dues through December for 2012. (If you have an "11" after your name, you are presently paid. When you pay for 2012, a "12" will appear after your name. Our membership year runs January 1-December 31.)

To join the League or renew your membership, fill in the information below and mail it, with your check, to Membership Chair, League of Women Voters, PO Box 239, Columbia, MO 65205.

Dues are \$55 for individuals, \$80 for a household and \$15 for local students.

If you are a member and wish to receive a membership list, please contact Liz Schmidt at 445-0655 or email at lizschmidt@centurytel.net.

Name _____

Email Address _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

I am particularly interested in _____

(Note: Tax deductible donations to the Education Fund should be a separate check, payable to LWVMO Education Fund.)

For more information, contact Liz Schmidt at 445-0655 or Linda Brown at 447-3939.

Websites

lwcabc.wordpress.com (local)
lwwmissouri.org (state)
lww.org (national)

Would you like to see the Voter in color? Save the League printing and mailing costs? You can now get the Voter direct to your computer early by contacting co-editor Linda Kaiser at lindaskaiser@gmail.com. Let her know you would like to receive your Voter via email and the email address you would like used.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Columbia – Boone County MO

P.O. Box 239

Columbia, MO 65205

<http://lwvcbc.wordpress.com>

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*LWV: Where hands-on work to safeguard
democracy leads to civic improvement.*



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

December 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Energy Matters Com, 10 am, Li- brary rm. A	10 Founders Lunch, Jack's, 11:30 a.m.
11	12 Board mtg. 6:30, Boone Electric	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Jan. 1	Jan. 2	Jan. 3	Jan. 4	Jan. 5	Jan. 6	Jan. 7